

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 04378 271034Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----005779 271035Z /10

P R 270959Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6008
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4378

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, US, NATO
SUBJ: CARAMANLIS' MOOD

1. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS TOLD ME THIS MORNING HE HELD
LITTLE HOPE FOR PRODUCTIVE RESULTS WHEN HE MEETS WITH
PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT IN WASHINGTON.

2. CARAMANLIS TOOK ME ASIDE AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE DEPARTING
FOR WASHINGTON TO DEPLORE THE "FLOOD" OF PUBLIC COMMENT RE-
CENTLY BY ECEVIT CONTENDING IT WILL IMPAIR WHATEVER OPPOR-
TUNITY MAY EXIST FOR PROGRESS FROM THEIR TALKS. HE
REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO ECEVIT'S COMMENTS IN BRUSSELS
YESTERDAY AS "NOW INTERFERING IN THE EC". THE REFERENCE
WAS TO REPORTS HERE THAT ECEVIT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT
SHOULD GREECE GAIN MEMBERSHIP BEFORE THERE WAS "A REASONABLE
DEGREE" OF SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN ATHENS AND ANKARA
THE EC COULD BECOME "SUCKED INTO" THE BILATERAL PROBLEMS.
WHILE CARAMANLIS DID NOT ELABORATE, BRUSSELS
10311 WHICH I HAVE JUST SEEN ATTRIBUTES TO ECEVIT THAT
"SUCH AN EVENTUALITY COULD LEAD TO INCREASED TENSION
PARTICULARLY IF GREECE BECOMES A MEMBER BEFORE MAJORITY
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VOTING IS ADOPTED BY THE EC COUNCIL."

3. IN CONTRAST, CARAMANLIS ARGUED, GREECE HAS SOUGHT
SINCE THE MONTREUX MEETING TO "PLAY THINGS DOWN" BUT ITS
EFFORTS HAVE GONE UNCOMPENSATED. DESPITE THIS, HE TOOK
THE INITIATIVE TO REQUEST THE MEETING WITH ECEVIT AND
WHILE HE WAS NOT PRESENTLY OPTIMISTIC "I WILL DO MY BEST

WHEN WE COME TOGETHER." THE MOOD PORTRAYED BY CARAMANLIS IS NOT UNLIKE THAT WHICH EMERGED PRIOR TO MONTREUX. THEREFORE I DON'T LOOK ON MATTERS TOO DARKLY.

4. CARAMANLIS ALLOWED HE WAS GREATLY PLEASED AT THE PROSPECT OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, BUT THAT THE REST OF HIS PROGRAM IN THE U.S. WAS OF LESSER IMPORTANCE, INCLUDING THE SPEECH HE WOULD MAKE TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

5. WHILE CARAMANLIS MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE GOG'S DIFFICULTIES WITH THE DRAFT NATO COMMUNIQUE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE THEODOROPoulos DID. HE IS CONCERNED THAT THE DIFFERENCES OVER PARAGRAPH 14 ARE STILL NOT RESOLVED AND ENVISIONS THE PROBLEM BEING PUSHED EVEN TO THE SUMMIT. HE THINKS THE ITALIAN COMPROMISE LANGUAGE WOULD BRIDGE THE DIFFERENCES.
MCCLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS04378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780224-0940
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780511/aaaaajdw.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c5723895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2538336
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARAMANLIS' MOOD
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, US, NATO, (CARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE), (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c5723895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014